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EXAMINER

JERABEK, KELLY L

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/780,839
Filing Date: February 08, 2001
Appellant(s): FISHER ET AL.

MAILED

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Technology Center 2600

Gregory Koerner
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 8/14/2006 appealing from the Office action mailed 1/26/2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is incorrect. A correct statement of the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-2, 4, 10-13, 15-16, 19-22, 24, 30-33, 35-36 and 39-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claims 3, 5-9, 23, 25-29 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 5, 17-18, 25 and 37-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This appeal includes claims 1-4, 6-16, 19-24, 26-36 and 39-42.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is substantially correct. The changes are as follows:

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

The following grounds of rejection are not presented for review on appeal because they have been withdrawn by the examiner. The rejection of claims 17-18 and 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,949,551 to Miller et al. has been withdrawn and are therefore not presented for review on appeal. The rejection of claims 5 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,949,551 to Miller et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,522,352 to Strandwitz et al. has been withdrawn and therefore not presented for review on appeal.

Appellant's have requested that the Examiner provide references to support the Official Notice's used in the rejection of claims 6-7, 9, 26-27 and 29. Therefore, the Examiner has provided a reference to support the Official Notice and claims 6-9 and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No

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5,949,551 to Miller et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,460 to Takahashi et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,127 to Wood et al.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

5,949,551	Miller et al.	9-1999
6,522,352	Strandwitz et al.	2-2003
6,580,460	Takahashi et al.	6-2003
6,453,127	Wood et al.	9-2002

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4, 10-13, 15-16, 19-22, 24, 30-33, and 35-36 and 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller et al. US 5,949,551.

Re claims 1, 21 and 41, Miller discloses a system for managing content information, comprising: peripheral devices (2A-2N) configured to capture content information (digital image data); and an image hub (20) configured to transfer the content information (digital image data) from the peripheral devices (2A-2N) to data destinations (40A-40N) from which a system user accesses the content information (digital image data) (col. 10, lines 1-59; col. 12, lines 51-67; figs. 1-4). Miller states that the only means of transferring content information (digital image data) from peripheral devices (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A – 40N) to be accessed and utilized by a system user is through image hub (20) via connections (10,30; figs. 1, 4) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Thus it can be seen that Miller discloses peripheral devices (2A-2N) having a transfer capability to transfer said content information (digital images) only to said image hub (20). Additionally, terminals (40A-40N) include hardware and software to perform the communication operations (col. 10, lines 30-52). Therefore, a computer readable medium comprising program instructions for managing content information is disclosed.

Re claim 2 and 22, Miller states that peripheral devices (2A-2N) may include a digital camera (col. 10, lines 53-59).

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Re claim 4 and 24, Miller states that the data destination (40A-40N) includes a user accessible service coupled to a distributed computer network (30) (col. 10, lines 30-52; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Re claims 10 and 30, Miller states that the content information includes image data (digital image data) that corresponds to an image that was captured by said peripheral device (2A-2N), and a corresponding descriptor (ID signal) that identifies image data as being captured by the peripheral device (2A-2N) (col. 12, lines 28-50).

Re claims 11 and 31, Miller states that a peripheral device (2A-2N) includes a data capture subsystem (CCD), a viewfinder, and a control module including a buffer memory of limited size (electronic storage medium) (col. 10, lines 53-59; col. 5, lines 2-14).

Re claims 12-13 and 32-33, Miller states that states that the peripheral devices (2A-2N) are connected to the image hub (20) in order to download image data to the image hub (20) for processing (col. 10, lines 1-52; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Re claims 15 and 35, Miller states that an application software program in the image hub (20) determines management functions for handling the image information (col. 10, lines 20-52; col. 12, lines 51-67).

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Re claims 16 and 36, Miller states that the image management functions performed by the image hub (20) include a data routing function for transferring the content information (image data) from the image hub (20) to data destinations (40A-40N) using a wireless communications data transfer or a hard-wired network data transfer (col. 10, lines 20-52; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Re claims 19 and 39, Miller states that the image hub (20) determines whether valid conditions exist for performing image management functions and presents an error message (inquiries are sent) if valid conditions do not exist and executes the image management functions if valid conditions do exist (col. 14, lines 8-67).

Re claims 20 and 40, Miller states that a system user accesses content information (image data) from data destinations (40A-40N) and performs data editing, data manipulation, and data ordering procedures on the content information (image data) (col. 13, lines 13-31).

Re claim 42, Applicant's specification provides means for capturing said content information which include a camera or a scanner. Correspondingly, the Miller reference provides means for capturing content information (2A-2N) which may be a scanner or a digital camera (col. 10, lines 1-59). Also, the content information consists of digital image signals, associated ID signal, and associated category information (col. 12, lines

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28-50). Therefore, the claimed limitation is found by the Examiner to be anticipated by the prior art element.

Additionally, applicant's specification provides means for transferring said content information from said means for capturing to a data destination. Correspondingly, the Miller reference provides means for transferring (hub 20) said content information from said means for capturing (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A-40N) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Therefore, the claimed limitation is found by the Examiner to be anticipated by the prior art element.

Additionally, applicant's specification provides means for accessing said content information from said data destination by a system user. Correspondingly, the Miller reference provides means for accessing (30) said content information (digital image data) from said data destination (40A-40N) by a system user (col. 12, lines 51-67). Therefore, the claimed limitation is found by the Examiner to be anticipated by the prior art element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. in view of Strandwitz et al. US 6,522,352.

Re claims 3 and 23, Miller discloses all of the limitations of claim 1 above including content information (digital image data) that is transferred to an image hub. However, the Miller reference fails to distinctly state that the content information that is transferred to an image hub includes audio data, text data, and graphics data in addition to digital image data.

Strandwitz discloses in figure 4 a wireless camera device communicating over a wideband radio channel to a wireless multi-media gateway as well as other devices. Strandwitz states that the wireless camera is capable of transmitting video, still images, audio, data, graphics, and text (col. 6, line 48-col. 7, line 19). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to transmit audio, text, and graphics data with image data as disclosed by Strandwitz using the image hub disclosed by Miller. Doing so would provide a means for transmitting image data and other data such as audio and text in order to transmit a video signal.

Claims 14 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. in view of Takahashi et al. US 6,580,460.

Re claims 14 and 34, Miller discloses a system for managing content information, comprising: peripheral devices (2A-2N) configured to capture content information (digital image data); and an image hub (20) configured to transfer the content information (digital image data) from the peripheral devices (2A-2N) to data destinations (40A-40N) from which a system user accesses the content information (digital image data) (col. 10, lines 1-59; col. 12, lines 51-67; figs. 1-4). Miller states that the only means of transferring content information (digital image data) from peripheral devices (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A – 40N) to be accessed and utilized by a system user is through image hub (20) via connections (10,30; figs. 1, 4) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Thus it can be seen that Miller discloses peripheral devices (2A-2N) having a transfer capability to transfer said content information (digital images) only to said image hub (20) (sole transfer means). However, although the Miller reference states that a peripheral device may be connected to an image hub it fails to state that the image hub provides a power source for recharging a power supply in the peripheral device.

Takahashi discloses in figure 1 an image-sensing device (117) that is capable of being connected to a printer (118). The Examiner is reading the image-sensing device (117) as a peripheral device and the printer (118) as an image hub. When the printer (118) is connected to the peripheral device (117) and it is confirmed that the power supply capacity from the printer (hub) is large enough to operate the digital image sensing device (peripheral device), the power supply of the digital image sensing device (119) is switched from a battery to that of the printer and when the remaining charge on the battery is small the printer (hub) charges the battery of the camera (peripheral

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device) (col. 3, lines 29-59). Thus, it can be seen that an image hub (printer) provides a sole power source for recharging a power supply (battery) in said peripheral device (camera). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to include the concept of using a device that is connected to a peripheral device to recharge the power supply of the peripheral device as disclosed by Takahashi in the image handling system disclosed by Miller. Doing so would provide a means for preventing battery consumption or short battery during the transport of image data (Takahashi: col. 1, lines 40-45).

Claims 6-9 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. in view of Takahashi et al. and further in view of Wood et al. US 6,453,127.

Re claims 6 and 26, Miller discloses a system for managing content information, comprising: peripheral devices (2A-2N) configured to capture content information (digital image data); and an image hub (20) configured to transfer the content information (digital image data) from the peripheral devices (2A-2N) to data destinations (40A-40N) from which a system user accesses the content information (digital image data) (col. 10, lines 1-59; col. 12, lines 51-67; figs. 1-4). Miller states that the only means of transferring content information (digital image data) from peripheral devices (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A – 40N) to be accessed and utilized by a system user is through image hub (20) via connections (10,30; figs. 1, 4) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Thus it

can be seen that Miller discloses peripheral devices (2A-2N) having a transfer capability to transfer said content information (digital images) only to said image hub (20) (sole transfer means). In addition, Miller discloses that the image hub (20) is a digital computer (central processing unit such as a workstation that includes a memory and input/output interfaces (communication means) (col. 10, lines 1-52). However, although the Miller reference states that a peripheral device may be connected to an image hub it fails to state that the image hub provides a power source for recharging a power supply in the peripheral device.

Takahashi discloses in figure 1 an image-sensing device (117) that is capable of being connected to a printer (118). The Examiner is reading the image-sensing device (117) as a peripheral device and the printer (118) as an image hub. When the printer (118) is connected to the peripheral device (117) and it is confirmed that the power supply capacity from the printer (hub) is large enough to operate the digital image sensing device (peripheral device), the power supply of the digital image sensing device (119) is switched from a battery to that of the printer and when the remaining charge on the battery is small the printer (hub) charges the battery of the camera (peripheral device) (col. 3, lines 29-59). Thus, it can be seen that an image hub (printer) provides a recharger module for recharging a power supply (battery) in said peripheral device (camera). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to include the concept of using a device that is connected to a peripheral device to recharge the power supply of the peripheral device as disclosed by Takahashi in the image handling system disclosed by Miller. Doing so would provide a means for

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preventing battery consumption or short battery during the transport of image data (Takahashi: col. 1, lines 40-45).

Although the combination of the Miller and Takahashi references discloses an image hub (20) (digital computer) including a central processing unit, a memory device, a recharger module and input/output interfaces it fails to specifically state that the image hub includes a display, and a user interface.

Wood discloses a web server computer (30) that includes a user interface supervisor (34) and a display for allowing users of the computer (30) to operate the computer and communicate with external devices using the computer (figure 2; col. 5, lines 3-53; col. 7, lines 1-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to utilize a computer having a user interface and a display as disclosed by Wood as the computer operating as an image hub as disclosed by Miller in view of Takahashi. Doing so would provide a means for allowing a user to operate the image hub computer and to communicate information to external devices.

Re claims 7 and 27, the combination of the Miller, Takahashi and Wood references discloses all of the limitations of claims 6 and 26 above. Additionally, the Takahashi reference states that when the remaining charge on the battery of the camera is small the printer (hub) charges the battery of the camera (peripheral device) (col. 3, lines 29-59). Therefore, Takahashi discloses a recharge manager (for recharging the battery of the camera). The Miller reference discloses an image hub (20) that is a digital computer (central processing unit such as a workstation that includes a

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memory) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Miller further states that the computer is programmed to execute steps and the memory stores image data (content information) (col. 10, lines 1-29). However, the neither reference states that the memory includes application software, an operating system, a network browser and a display manager. Wood discloses a web server computer (30) that includes application software and an operating system, a network browser (31) and a display manager (for the user interface and display) all for allowing users of the computer (30) to operate the computer and communicate with external devices using the computer (figure 2; col. 5, lines 3-53; col. 7, lines 1-20).

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 8 and 28 (Appeal Brief page 20) state that the Miller and Takahashi references fail to teach an image hub with application software that includes an editing module. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The Miller reference states that a user may edit print images using a remote terminal (40A-40N) and the edited images may be sent back to the image hub (20) for storage (col. 13, lines 13-31). Therefore, the memory of the image hub (20) disclosed by Miller must include an element that recognizes that image data that has been edited is being received from a remote terminal (40A-40N) and store the edited image data. The Examiner is thus reading the memory of the image hub an "editing module".

Re claims 9 and 29, the combination of the Miller, Takahashi and Wood references discloses all of the limitations of claims 6 and 26 above. Additionally, the

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Takahashi reference states that when the remaining charge on the battery of the camera is small the printer (hub) charges the battery of the camera (peripheral device) (col. 3, lines 29-59). Therefore, Takahashi discloses a recharge connector interface (119 for recharging the battery of the camera). The Miller reference discloses an image hub (20) that is a digital computer (central processing unit such as a workstation) that includes input/output interfaces (communication means) (col. 10, lines 1-52). The input/output interfaces include a network interface (modem), a host computer interface (third communication I/F), a camera connector interface (second communication I/F), a photographic printer interface (third communication I/F) (remote terminals (40A-40N) may be used to print images) (col. 13, lines 13-31) and a removable storage media interface (tape 54) (col. 8, lines 41-51). However, the neither reference states that the hub includes a wireless communications interface or a status indicator interface. Wood discloses a web server computer (30) that includes several types of input/output interfaces. Wood states that the web server computer (30) connects to client remote workstations via a wireless telephone connection (col. 4, lines 34-40). Thus, Wood discloses a wireless communications interface. The Examiner notes that the claim only requires "one or more input/output interfaces" therefore any one of the above interfaces may be used to reject the claim.

Re claims 8 and 28, the Miller references discloses a download manager (for transferring via connection 10), an upload manager (for transferring via connection 30),

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and editing module, a data manager, miscellaneous routines, and an image selection manager (col. 10, lines 1-52; col. 12, line 28 – col. 13, line 31).

(10) Response to Argument

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 1 and 21 (Appeal Brief pages 7-8) state that the Miller reference nowhere discloses a "peripheral device having a transfer capability to transfer said content information only to said image hub". The Examiner respectfully disagrees. **Appellant's specification states that "In practice, camera device (610) is exclusively dedicated to image hub (110) because all image data that is captured by camera device (610) may only be accessed and utilized by a system user through image hub (110).** Miller discloses a system for managing content information, comprising: peripheral devices (2A-2N) configured to capture content information (digital image data); and an image hub (20) configured to transfer the content information (digital image data) from the peripheral devices (2A-2N) to data destinations (40A-40N) from which a system user accesses the content information (digital image data) (col. 10, lines 1-59; col. 12, lines 51-67; figs. 1-4). **Miller states that the only means of transferring content information (digital image data) from peripheral devices (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A-40N) to be accessed and utilized by a system user is through image hub (20) via connections 10,30); figs. 1, 4) (col. 10, lines 1-52).** Thus it can be seen that Miller discloses peripheral

devices (2A-2N) having a transfer capability to transfer said content information (digital images) only to said image hub (20). Although the peripheral devices (2A-2N) are scanner systems that may include digital computers this does not teach away from the claimed invention. The image hub (20) disclosed by Miller is configured to transfer content information (digital image data) from the peripheral devices (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A-40N). Therefore, at any given point in time an exclusive connection is made between one of the peripheral devices (2A-2N), the image hub (20) and one of the data destinations (40A-40N) wherein the peripheral devices (2A-2N) transfer the content information (digital image data) only to the image hub (20) and the image hub (20) subsequently transfers the content information (digital image data) to one of the data destinations (40A-40N).

Appellant's arguments (Appeal Brief pages 8-9) state that the Miller reference teaches downloading only "digital images" while Appellant's specifically claim downloading "content information". Appellant's further state that in conjunction with figure content information is defined to include a series of descriptors that each corresponds with a specific captured image. The Examiner is maintaining the rejection because the claim does not include language to further describe "content information". Therefore, the digital images disclosed by Miller are being read as "content information". In addition, the appellant's specification states "When the download manager detects a download request, then the download manager may preferably transfer the particular content information (including captured image data) from the camera device to the

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image hub" (Specification: page 3, lines 12-14). Thus, it can be seen that the claimed "content information" includes "image data". It is the Examiner's conclusion that the term "content information" is a relatively broad term and the digital images disclosed by Miller are being read as "content information".

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 10 and 20 (Appeal Brief page 10) state that the Miller reference nowhere discloses transferred "content information" that includes both image data and "a corresponding descriptor that identifies said image data as being captured by said peripheral device". The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Miller states that the content information includes image data (digital image data) that corresponds to an image that was captured by said peripheral device (2A-2N), and a corresponding descriptor (ID signal) that identifies image data as being captured by the peripheral device (2A-2N) (col. 12, lines 28-50).

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 15-16 and 35-36 (Appeal Brief page 10) state that the Miller reference fails to teach an application program of an image hub that analyzes transferred content information and automatically "determines one or more appropriate image management functions" that include "a data routing function" that is automatically performed by an upload manager of the image hub for transferring the received content information to an appropriate data destination. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Miller states that an application software program in the image hub (20) determines management functions for handling the image information and that

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the image management functions performed by the image hub (20) include a data routing function for transferring the content information (image data) from the image hub (20) to data destinations (40A-40N) using a wireless communications data transfer or a hard-wired network data transfer (col. 10, lines 20-52; col. 12, lines 51-67). Miller states that data destinations (40A-40N) include communication hardware and software to engage in two-way communication with hub station (20) (col. 10, lines 38-50).

Therefore, it is inherent that the hub station (20) must also include a processor capable of performing a data routing function in order to engage in the two-way communication with the data destinations (40A-40N) and it is also inherent that the two-way communication disclosed by Miller must also include download/upload requests from both the hub station (20) and the data destinations (40A-40N).

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 17 and 37 (Appeal Brief page 11) state that that Miller reference fails to disclose that a data routing function based upon a selection of four different possible types of information, including an image identifier tag and destination information corresponding to an intended final data destination. This argument is substantially correct and therefore the rejection of claims 17 and 37 has been withdrawn.

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 18 and 38 (Appeal Brief page 11) state that that Miller reference fails to disclose that the image hub analyzes transferred content information and automatically performs a data editing function in which an

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editing module in said image hub modifies said content information. This argument is substantially correct and therefore the rejection of claims 18 and 38 has been withdrawn.

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 19 and 39 (Appeal Brief page 12) state that the Miller reference fails to teach an image hub that automatically determines whether valid conditions currently exist for performing one or more image management functions and presenting an error message to a system user if valid conditions do not currently exist. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Miller states that if a digital image set is not received by hub station (20) different procedures can be used to inquire as to the whereabouts of the image set (col. 14, lines 8-67). Therefore, Miller states that the hub (20) determines whether valid conditions currently exist for performing image management functions (determines if images have been received) and the image hub (20) presents an error message to the user (inquires are sent) if valid conditions do not exist (images have not been received).

Appellant's arguments regarding claim 42 (Appeal Brief pages 12-13) state that since "means-plus-function" language is used, in light of the substantial differences between the teachings of Miller and Appellant's invention as disclosed in the Specification, claim 42 is not anticipated by Miller. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The language of claim 42 is as follows: " A system for managing content information, comprising:

means for capturing said content information ;

means for transferring said content information from said means for capturing to a data destination; and

means for accessing said content information from said data destination by a system user".

Appellant's specification provides means for capturing said content information which include a camera or a scanner. Correspondingly, the Miller reference provides means for capturing content information (2A-2N) which may be a scanner or a digital camera (col. 10, lines 1-59). Also, the content information consists of digital image signals, associated ID signal, and associated category information (col. 12, lines 28-50). Therefore, the claimed limitation is found by the Examiner to be anticipated by the prior art element.

Additionally, appellant's specification provides means for transferring said content information from said means for capturing to a data destination. Correspondingly, the Miller reference provides means for transferring (hub 20) said content information from said means for capturing (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A-40N) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Therefore, the claimed limitation is found by the Examiner to be anticipated by the prior art element.

Additionally, appellant's specification provides means for accessing said content information from said data destination by a system user. Correspondingly, the Miller reference provides means for accessing (30) said content information (digital image data) from said data destination (40A-40N) by a system user (col. 12, lines 51-67). Therefore, the claimed limitation is found by the Examiner to be anticipated by the prior art element.

Based on the foregoing comparisons, it is demonstrated that each of the claimed limitations are also found within the Miller reference, and therefore the rejection of claim 42 is maintained. It is noted by the Examiner that the Appellants have not particularly directed or expressly indicated any of the specific claim limitations of claim 42 asserted to have not been taught or anticipated in their most recent response.

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 3 and 23 (Appeal Brief page 14) state that reconsideration of claims 3 and 23 is requested for the reasons that they are dependent from independent claims 1 and 21 therefore the response above regarding claims 1 and 21 also applies to claims 3 and 23. In addition, Appellant's state that the rejection does not suggest a combination that would result in Appellant's invention and therefore the obviousness rejection is improper. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Motivation to combine the references was provided in the previous office action (pages 13-14 of final rejection, claims 3 and 23).

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 6-9, 14, 26-29 and 34 (Appeal Brief pages 15-16) state that the combination of the Miller and Takahashi references fails to teach a substantial number of the claimed elements of the invention. However, Appellant's do not state which of the claimed elements are missing. The Examiner maintains that the that the combination of the Miller and Takahashi references discloses all of the limitations of the claims rejected in view of Miller and Takahashi according to the final rejection. Furthermore, Appellant's arguments state that the rejection does not suggest a combination that would result in Appellant's invention and therefore the obviousness rejection is improper. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Motivation to combine the references was provided in the previous office action (final rejection pages 14-15).

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 5 and 25 (Appeal Brief pages 16-18) state that the combination of the Miller and Takahashi references fails to disclose that the image hub provides a sole power source for recharging a power supply in a peripheral device. This argument is substantially correct and therefore the rejection of claims 5 and 25 has been withdrawn.

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 6 and 26 (Appeal Brief page 18) request that the Examiner provide references in support of the Official Notice that was taken in the final office action. In response the Examiner has cited Wood et al. US 6,453,127

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and the claims are rejected in view of a combination of the Miller, Takahashi and Wood references as follows:

Miller discloses a system for managing content information, comprising: peripheral devices (2A-2N) configured to capture content information (digital image data); and an image hub (20) configured to transfer the content information (digital image data) from the peripheral devices (2A-2N) to data destinations (40A-40N) from which a system user accesses the content information (digital image data) (col. 10, lines 1-59; col. 12, lines 51-67; figs. 1-4). Miller states that the only means of transferring content information (digital image data) from peripheral devices (2A-2N) to a data destination (40A – 40N) to be accessed and utilized by a system user is through image hub (20) via connections (10,30; figs. 1, 4) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Thus it can be seen that Miller discloses peripheral devices (2A-2N) having a transfer capability to transfer said content information (digital images) only to said image hub (20) (sole transfer means). In addition, Miller discloses that the image hub (20) is a digital computer (central processing unit such as a workstation that includes a memory and input/output interfaces (communication means) (col. 10, lines 1-52). However, although the Miller reference states that a peripheral device may be connected to an image hub it fails to state that the image hub provides a power source for recharging a power supply in the peripheral device.

Takahashi discloses in figure 1 an image-sensing device (117) that is capable of being connected to a printer (118). The Examiner is reading the image-sensing device

(117) as a peripheral device and the printer (118) as an image hub. When the printer (118) is connected to the peripheral device (117) and it is confirmed that the power supply capacity from the printer (hub) is large enough to operate the digital image sensing device (peripheral device), the power supply of the digital image sensing device (119) is switched from a battery to that of the printer and when the remaining charge on the battery is small the printer (hub) charges the battery of the camera (peripheral device) (col. 3, lines 29-59). Thus, it can be seen that an image hub (printer) provides a recharger module for recharging a power supply (battery) in said peripheral device (camera). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to include the concept of using a device that is connected to a peripheral device to recharge the power supply of the peripheral device as disclosed by Takahashi in the image handling system disclosed by Miller. Doing so would provide a means for preventing battery consumption or short battery during the transport of image data (Takahashi: col. 1, lines 40-45).

Although the combination of the Miller and Takahashi references discloses an image hub (20) (digital computer) including a central processing unit, a memory device, a recharger module and input/output interfaces it fails to specifically state that the image hub includes a display, and a user interface.

Wood discloses a web server computer (30) that includes a user interface supervisor (34) and a display for allowing users of the computer (30) to operate the computer and communicate with external devices using the computer (figure 2; col. 5, lines 3-53; col. 7, lines 1-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in

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the art to have been motivated to utilize a computer having a user interface and a display as disclosed by Wood as the computer operating as an image hub as disclosed by Miller in view of Takahashi. Doing so would provide a means for allowing a user to operate the image hub computer and to communicate information to external devices.

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 7 and 27 (Appeal Brief page 19) request that the Examiner provide references in support of the Official Notice that was taken in the final office action. In response the Examiner has cited Wood et al. US 6,453,127 and the claims are rejected in view of a combination of the Miller, Takahashi and Wood references as follows:

The combination of the Miller, Takahashi and Wood references discloses all of the limitations of claims 6 and 26 above. Additionally, the Takahashi reference states that when the remaining charge on the battery of the camera is small the printer (hub) charges the battery of the camera (peripheral device) (col. 3, lines 29-59). Therefore, Takahashi discloses a recharge manager (for recharging the battery of the camera). The Miller reference discloses an image hub (20) that is a digital computer (central processing unit such as a workstation that includes a memory) (col. 10, lines 1-52). Miller further states that the computer is programmed to execute steps and the memory stores image data (content information) (col. 10, lines 1-29). However, the neither reference states that the memory includes application software, an operating system, a network browser and a display manager. Wood discloses a web server computer (30)

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that includes application software and an operating system, a network browser (31) and a display manager (for the user interface and display) all for allowing users of the computer (30) to operate the computer and communicate with external devices using the computer (figure 2; col. 5, lines 3-53; col. 7, lines 1-20).

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 8 and 28 (Appeal Brief page 20) state that the Miller and Takahashi references fail to teach an image hub with application software that includes an editing module. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The Miller reference states that a user may edit print images using a remote terminal (40A-40N) and the edited images may be sent back to the image hub (20) for storage (col. 13, lines 13-31). Therefore, the memory of the image hub (20) disclosed by Miller must include an element that recognizes that image data that has been edited is being received from a remote terminal (40A-40N) and store the edited image data. The Examiner is thus reading the memory of the image hub an "editing module".

Appellant's arguments regarding claims 9 and 29 (Appeal Brief page 20) request that the Examiner provide references in support of the Official Notice that was taken in the final office action. In response the Examiner has cited Wood et al. US 6,453,127 and the claims are rejected in view of a combination of the Miller, Takahashi and Wood references as follows:

The combination of the Miller, Takahashi and Wood references discloses all of the limitations of claims 6 and 26 above. Additionally, the Takahashi reference states that when the remaining charge on the battery of the camera is small the printer (hub) charges the battery of the camera (peripheral device) (col. 3, lines 29-59). Therefore, Takahashi discloses a recharge connector interface (119 for recharging the battery of the camera). The Miller reference discloses an image hub (20) that is a digital computer (central processing unit such as a workstation) that includes input/output interfaces (communication means) (col. 10, lines 1-52). The input/output interfaces include a network interface (modem), a host computer interface (third communication I/F), a camera connector interface (second communication I/F), a photographic printer interface (third communication I/F) (remote terminals (40A-40N) may be used to print images) (col. 13, lines 13-31) and a removable storage media interface (tape 54) (col. 8, lines 41-51). However, the neither reference states that the hub includes a wireless communications interface or a status indicator interface. Wood discloses a web server computer (30) that includes several types of input/output interfaces. Wood states that the web server computer (30) connects to client remote workstations via a wireless telephone connection (col. 4, lines 34-40). Thus, Wood discloses a wireless communications interface. The Examiner notes that the claim only requires "one or more input/output interfaces" therefore any one of the above interfaces may be used to reject the claim.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,


Kelly Jerabek



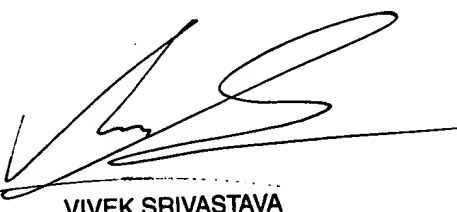
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